

C1
cont.

inserting an ink needle into a port of the spent ink bag;
after said removing step, discharging ink from the spent ink bag only through said port; and
after said discharging step, charging the spent ink bag only through said port with a specified quantity of ink.

C2

3. (Amended) A method of refilling an ink bag for use in an ink jet recorder, the ink bag having a flexible bag portion having an interior and being initially filled with ink through a first opening in the bag that is sealed after the ink bag is initially filled, said method comprising the steps of:

removing the ink bag from the ink jet recorder;
positioning the ink bag;
advancing a tip of an ink needle into the interior of the flexible bag portion by passing the tip of the needle through a second opening in the ink bag that is different than the first opening through which the ink bag is initially filled with ink, the second opening comprising an ink supply port selectively engageable with an ink jet recorder; and
charging the ink bag only through the second opening with a specified quantity of ink.

4. (Amended) A method of refilling an ink bag for use in an ink jet recorder, the ink bag being initially filled with ink through a first opening in the bag that is sealed after the ink bag is initially filled, said method comprising the steps of:

C²
CONT.

providing the ink bag, the ink bag having, disposed on a line, the first opening and an opposing second opening that is an ink supply port selectively engagable with an ink jet recorder;

removing the ink bag from the ink jet recorder;

positioning the ink bag;

advancing a tip of an ink needle along the line and through the second opening in the ink bag; and

charging the ink bag only through the second opening with a specified quantity of ink.

REMARKS

Claims 2-4 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-4 were rejected and claims 5-10 were withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention. By this Amendment claims 1 and 5-10 have been cancelled, and claims 2-4 have been revised. The cancellation of claims 1 and 5-10 has been made without prejudice or disclaimer; at least one of the cancelled claims may hereafter be pursued in a related continuing application. Claims 2-4 are independent.

Attached are marked-up sheets captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made" reflecting the foregoing changes.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,900,895 to Merrill. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and submit the following arguments in support thereof.

First, it will be appreciated that the cancellation of claim 1 renders moot the corresponding portion of this rejection.